Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04216 261027Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SAA-01 SSM-03 CIAE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 SY-05
OPR-02 A-01 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /108 W
----------060734 261035Z /15
O P 260952Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8895
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4216

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: JULY 26, 1300 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 4192 (DTG 251113Z JUL 78)

1. IN THE HEAVIEST SHELLING OF HADATH TO DATE, SYRIAN ADF FORCES BOMBARDED THE BEIRUT SUBURB FOR THE FIFTH STRAIGHT DAY. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SECURITY EMPLOYEES AT THE AMBAS-
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 04216 261027Z

SADOR'S RESIDENCE AT YARZE, THERE WAS SMALL ARMS FIRE THROUGHOUT THE DAY OF 25 JULY. HEAVY SHELLING BEGAN AT 1630 HOURS AND CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT. THE FIRING DIED DOWN CONSIDERABLY AROUND 0800 ON 26 JULY, BUT SOME SHOOTING CONTINUES AS OF 1300 HOURS.

2. PIERRE DACCACHE, THE DEPUTY FOR BAABDA, TOLD AN EMBASSY

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

LOCAL EMPLOYEE THAT ON 25 JULY "THE SYRIAN ADF LAUNCHED THE MOST SEVERE AND MASSIVE SHELLING . . . OF HADATH. MORE THAN 1,000 ROCKETS FELL ON HADATH AND THE VICINITY." HE ADDED THAT DAMAGE WAS EXTENSIVE, THAT NO ONE, INCLUDING THE RED CROSS, WAS ALLOWED ENTRY INTO HADATH, AND THAT YESTERDAY'S CASUALTY TOLL HAD BEEN OVER 23 KILLED AND AROUND 75 WOUNDED. (COMMENT: DATT SOURCES ESTIMATE THAT 85 PERCENT OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF HADATH HAS LEFT THE CITY. END COMMENT).

3. ACCORDING TO AN ADF SPOKESMAN, ADF FIRING WAS IN RESPONSE TO SNIPING AND MORTAR FIRE FROM LEBANESE FRONT MILITIAMEN. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE ADF HAD INITIALLY NOT RESPONDED TO MORTAR AND SMALL ARMS FIRE AGAINST THEIR POSITIONS IN HADATH ON 25 JULY UNTIL, "MORE THAN ONE OF ITS TROOPS WAS INJURED," IKE REPORTED.

4. REUTERS, QUOTING MEDICAL SOURCES IN WEST BEIRUT, SAID THAT AN ENTIRE FLOOR OF BARBIR HOSPITAL HAD BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE ADF TO TREAT THEIR CASUALTIES, AND ALSO REPORTED THAT AT LEAST 35 SYRIAN SOLDIERS ALL WOUNDED IN HADATH HAD BEEN TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL BY EARLY MORNING OF THE 25TH. (COMMENT: THOUGH WE HAVE NO EXACT FIGURES, RIGHTIST MILITIAS SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN ONLY TOKEN CASUALTIES. END COMMENT.)

5. DATT SOURCES REPORTED THAT THE RIGHTISTS ON 25 JULY BROUGHT MORTARS AND POSSIBLY ARTILLERY INTO RANGE OF HADATH
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TO SUPPORT THEIR MILITIAS THERE. AN EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE ALSO REPORTED THAT BEGINNING AT 0400 ON 26 JULY CHRISTIAN MILITIA REPLIED TO THE SYRIAN FIRE WITH "MORTAR AND ARTILLERY." ONE DATT SOURCE SAID THAT RIGHTIST USE OF "HEAVY WEAPONS" IN REPLY TO ADF USE OF THE SAME WOULD BE STANDARD IN THE FUTURE. REUTER QUOTED A LEBANESE MILITIAMAN IN HADATH AS SAYING DURING THE EVENING OF THE 25TH "IS IT ALL OVER? BROTHER, IT HASN'T EVEN STARTED. AND WE ARE PREPARED."
PARKER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Release Event: n/a
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20 Mar 2014
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